



March 16, 2017

***Ex Parte Notice***

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, March 14, 2017, and Wednesday, March 15, 2017, the undersigned, on behalf of NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), held separate conversations via telephone with Claude Aiken, legal advisor to Mignon Clyburn, and Amy Bender, legal advisor to Commissioner Michael O’Rielly, respectively, regarding matters in the above-referenced proceeding.

The conversations followed upon several recent prior discussions regarding the continuing adverse effects upon consumers arising out of application of the “rate floor” policy and the chilling impact on investment arising out of uncertainty related to the capital investment allowance. *See Ex Parte* Letters from Michael R. Romano, Sr. Vice President, NTCA, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”), WC Docket No. 10-90 (filed Feb. 3, 2017; February 23, 2017; March 6, 2017). Consistent with those prior discussions, NTCA urged the Commission again to act promptly upon prior filings to address concerns with respect to both issues. *See, e.g.,* Application for Review of NTCA, *et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 (filed Jan. 21, 2015); Petition for Reconsideration of NTCA, *et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 (filed Aug. 4, 2014), at 10-11 and 21-22. NTCA also raised in each conversation the treatment of certain expenses for purposes of cost recovery via universal service, consistent again with prior advocacy. *See* Comments of NTCA, WC Docket No. 10-90 (filed May 12, 2016), at 2-18.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission’s rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael R. Romano

Michael R. Romano  
Senior Vice President –  
Industry Affairs & Business Development

cc: Claude Aiken  
Amy Bender